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IRISH POETS  
OF TO-DAY  
AN ANTHOLOGY

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*BY THE SAME AUTHOR*

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*Editor of AN ANTHOLOGY OF  
RECENT POETRY (1920) Illus-  
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AT THE SPRING"*

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO  
WILTSHIRE (1921)

# IRISH POETS OF TO-DAY

AN ANTHOLOGY

COMPILED BY  
L. D'O. WALTERS

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TO MY SON

AND

A. E.



## NOTE

*The majority of these poems have been selected by me, but in a few instances the poet himself has expressed a wish that some particular poem or poems should be included, and I have abided readily by his choice.*

*My thanks to both Authors and Publishers will be found on another page, but here I would thank expressly A. E., Messrs. Maunsel & Roberts, and The Talbot Press for the help they have given me, and for the courtesy they have shown me, while I have been compiling this Anthology.*

*L. D'O. WALTERS.*



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*Arranged under names of Authors*

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IRISH POETS OF TO-DAY  
AN ANTHOLOGY



**A CALL**

DUSK its ash-grey blossoms sheds on violet skies,  
Over twilight mountains where the heart songs rise,  
Rise and fall and fade away from earth to air.  
Earth renewes the music sweeter. Oh, come there.  
Come, acushla, come, as in ancient times  
Rings aloud the underland with faery chimes.  
Down the unseen ways as strays each tinkling fleece  
Winding ever onward to a fold of peace,  
So my dreams go straying in a land more fair ;  
Half I tread the dew-wet grasses, half wander there.  
Fade your glimmering eyes in a world grown cold ;  
Come, acushla, with me to the mountains old.  
There the bright ones call us waving to and fro—  
Come, my children, with me to the ancient go.

**AWAKENING**

THE lights shone down the street  
In the long blue close of day :  
A boy's heart beat sweet, sweet,  
As it flowered in its dreamy clay.

Beyond the dazzling throng  
And above the towers of men  
The stars made him long, long,  
To return to their light again.

They lit the wondrous years  
And his heart within was gay ;  
But a life of tears, tears,  
He had won for himself that day.

## CARROWMORE

It's a lonely road through bogland to the lake at  
Carrowmore,

And a sleeper there lies dreaming where the water  
laps the shore;

Though the moth-wings of the twilight in their  
purples are unfurled,

Yet his sleep is filled with music by the masters of  
the world.

There's a hand is white as silver that is fondling  
with his hair:

There are glimmering feet of sunshine that are dancing  
by him there:

And half-open lips of faery that were dyed a faery  
red

In their revels where the Hazel Tree its holy clusters  
shed.

“Come away,” the red lips whisper, “all the world  
is weary now;

’Tis the twilight of the ages and it’s time to quit  
the plough.

Oh, the very sunlight’s weary ere it lightens up the  
dew,

And its gold is changed and faded before it falls to  
you.

## A. E.

“ Though your colleen’s heart be tender, a tenderer heart is near.  
What’s the starlight in her glances when the stars are shining clear ?  
Who would kiss the fading shadow when the flower-face glows above ?  
'Tis the beauty of all Beauty that is calling for your love.”

Oh ! the great gates of the mountain have opened once again,  
And the sound of song and dancing falls upon the ears of men,  
And the Land of Youth lies gleaming, flushed with rainbow light and mirth,  
And the old enchantment lingers in the honey-heart of earth.

## A. E.

### IN THE WOMB

STILL rests the heavy share on the dark soil :  
Upon the black mould thick the dew-damp lies :  
The horse waits patient : from his lowly toil  
The ploughboy to the morning lifts his eyes.

The unbudding hedgerows dark against day's fires  
Glitter with gold-lit crystals : on the rim  
Over the unregarding city's spires  
The lonely beauty shines alone for him.

And day by day the dawn or dark enfolds  
And feeds with beauty eyes that cannot see  
How in her womb the mighty mother moulds  
The infant spirit for eternity.

THE  
GIFT

I THOUGHT, beloved, to have brought to you  
A gift of quietness and ease and peace,  
Cooling your brow as with the mystic dew  
Dropping from the twilight trees.

Homeward I go not yet ; the darkness grows ;  
Not mine the voice to still with peace divine :  
From the first fount the stream of quiet flows  
Through other hearts than mine.

Yet of my night I give to you the stars,  
And of my sorrow here the sweetest gains,  
And out of hell, beyond its iron bars,  
My scorn of all its pains.

THE VISION  
OF LOVE

THE twilight fleeted away in pearl on the stream,  
And night, like a diamond dome, stood still in our  
dream.

Your eyes like burnished stones or as stars were  
bright  
With the sudden vision that made us one with the  
night.

We loved in infinite spaces, forgetting here  
The breasts that were lit with life and the lips so  
near ;

Till the wizard willows waved in the wind and drew  
Me away from the fulness of love and down to you.

Our love was so vast that it filled the heavens up :  
But the soft white fear I held was an empty cup,  
When the willows called me back to earth with their  
sigh,

And we moved as shades through the deep that was  
you and I.

## THOMAS BOYD

### TO THE LEANÁN SIDHE <sup>1</sup>

WHERE is thy lovely perilous abode ?

In what strange phantom-land  
Glimmer the fairy turrets whereto rode  
The ill-starred poet band ?

Say, in the Isle of Youth hast thou thy home,  
The sweetest singer there,  
Stealing on wingéd steed across the foam  
Through the moonlit air ?

Or, where the mists of bluebell float beneath  
The red stems of the pine,  
And sunbeams strike thro' shadow, dost thou  
breathe  
The word that makes him thine ?

Or by the gloomy peaks of Erigal,  
Haunted by storm and cloud,  
Wing past, and to thy lover there let fall  
His singing-robe and shroud ?

Or, is thy palace entered thro' some cliff  
When radiant tides are full,  
And round thy lover's wandering, starlit skiff,  
Coil in luxurious lull ?

<sup>1</sup> "The Fairy Bride," pronounced *Lenawn Shee*.

## THOMAS BOYD

And would he, entering on the brimming flood,  
See caverns vast in height,  
And diamond columns, crowned with leaf and bud,  
Glow in long lanes of light,

And there, the pearl of that great glittering shell  
Trembling, behold thee lone,  
Now weaving in slow dance an awful spell,  
Now still upon thy throne ?

Thy beauty ! ah, the eyes that pierce him thro'  
Then melt as in a dream ;  
The voice that sings the mysteries of the blue  
And all that Be and Seem !

Thy lovely motions answering to the rhyme  
That ancient Nature sings,  
That keeps the stars in cadence for all time,  
And echoes thro' all things !

Whether he sees thee thus, or in his dreams,  
Thy light makes all lights dim ;  
An aching solitude from henceforth seems  
The world of men to him.

Thy luring song, above the sensuous roar,  
He follows with delight,  
Shutting behind him Life's last gloomy door,  
And fares into the Night.

## JOSEPH CAMPBELL

### THE OLD WOMAN

As a white candle  
In a holy place,  
So is the beauty  
Of an agèd face.

As the spent radiance  
Of the winter sun,  
So is a woman  
With her travail done.

Her brood gone from her  
And her thoughts as still  
As the waters  
Under a ruined mill.

# PATRICK R. CHALMERS

## THE ROAD

“Now where are ye goin’,” ses I, “wid the shawl  
An’ cotton umbrella an’ basket an’ all ?  
Would ye not wait for McMullen’s machine,  
Wid that iligant instep befittin’ a queen ?

Oh, you wid the wind-soft grey eye wid a wile  
in it,

You wid the lip wid the troublesome smile in it,  
Sure, the road’s wet, ivery rain-muddied mile  
in it——”

“*Ah, the Saints ’ll be kapin’ me petticoats clean !*”

“But,” ses I, “would ye like it to meet Glancy’s  
bull,

Or the tinks poachin’ rabbits above Slieve-na-coul ?  
An’ the ford at Kilmaddy is big wid the snows,  
An’ the whisht Little People that wear the green  
close,

They’d run from the bog to be makin’ a catch  
o’ ye,

The king o’ them’s wishful o’ weddin’ the match  
o’ ye,

’Twould be long, if they did, ’ere ye lifted the  
latch o’ ye——”

“*What fairy’s to touch her that sings as she goes !*”

## PATRICK R. CHALMERS

“ Ah, where are ye goin’,” ses I, “ wid the shawl,  
An’ the grey eyes a-dreamin’ beneath it an’ all ?  
The road by the mountain’s a long one, depend  
Ye’ll be done for, alannah, ere reachin’ the end ;  
Ye’ll be bate wid the wind on each back-breakin’  
bit on it,  
Wet wid the puddles and lamed with the grit  
on it,—  
Since lonesome ye’re layin’ yer delicut fit on  
it——”

“ *Sure whin’s a road lonesome that’s stepped wid a friend ?* ”

That’s stepped wid a friend ?  
Who did Bridgy intend ?  
Still ’t was me that went wid her right on to the  
end !

## NORA CHESSON

### THE SHORT CUT TO ROSSES

By the short cut to Rosses a fairy girl I met,  
I was taken in her beauty as a fish is in a net.  
The fern uncurled to look at her, so very fair was  
she,  
With her hair as bright as seaweed new-drawn from  
out the sea.

By the short cut to Rosses ('twas on the first of  
May)  
I heard the fairies piping, and they piped my heart  
away ;  
They piped till I was mad with joy, but when I was  
alone  
I found my heart was piped away and in my breast  
a stone.

By the short cut to Rosses 'tis I'll go never more,  
Lest she should also steal my soul that stole my  
heart before,  
Lest she take my soul and crush it like a dead leaf  
in her hand,  
For the short cut to Rosses is the way to Fairyland.

# AUSTIN CLARKE

## THE VENGEANCE OF FIONN

### Part VI. Lines 19-71.

IN the sleepy forest where the bluebells  
Smouldered dimly through the night,  
Diarmuid saw the leaves like glad green waters  
At daybreak flowing into light,  
And exultant from his love upspringing  
Strode with the sun upon the height.

Glittering on the hilltops  
He saw the sunlit rain  
Drift as around the spindle  
A silver-threaded skein,  
And the brown mist whitely breaking  
Where arrowy torrents reached the plain.

A maddened moon  
Leapt in his heart and whirled the crimson tide  
Of his blood until it sang aloud of battle  
Where the querns of dark death grind,  
Till it sang and scorned in pride  
Love—the froth-pale blossom of the boglands  
That flutters on the waves of the wandering  
wind.

## AUSTIN CLARKE

Flower-quiet in the rush-strewn sheiling  
At the dawntime Grainne lay,  
While beneath the birch-topped roof the  
sunlight  
Groped upon its way  
And stooped above her sleeping white body  
With a wasp-yellow ray.

The hot breath of the day awoke her,  
And wearied of its heat  
She wandered out by noisy elms  
On the cool mossy peat,  
Where the shadowed leaves like pecking linnets  
Nodded around her feet.

She leaned and saw in pale-grey waters, . . .  
By twisted hazel boughs,  
Her lips like heavy drooping poppies  
In a rich redness drowse,  
Then swallow-lightly touched the ripples  
Until her wet lips were  
Burning as ripened rowan berries  
Through the white winter air.

Lazily she lingered  
Gazing so,  
As the slender osiers  
Where the waters flow,  
As green twigs of sally  
Swaying to and fro.

## AUSTIN CLARKE

Sleepy moths fluttered  
In her dark eyes,  
And her lips grew quieter  
Than lullabies.  
Swaying with the reedgrass  
Over the stream  
Lazily she lingered  
Cradling a dream.

# PADRAIC COLUM

## A CRADLE SONG

O, men from the fields !  
Come gently within.  
Tread softly, softly,  
O ! men coming in.

Mavourneen is going  
From me and from you,  
Where Mary will fold him  
With mantle of blue !

From reek of the smoke  
And cold of the floor,  
And the peering of things  
Across the half-door.

O, men from the fields !  
Soft, softly come thro'.  
Mary puts round him  
Her mantle of blue.

## PADRAIC COLUM

### A DROVER

To Meath of the pastures,  
From wet hills of the sea,  
Through Leitrim and Longford,  
Go my cattle and me.

I hear in the darkness  
Their slipping and breathing—  
I name them the bye-ways  
They're to pass without heeding ;

Then the wet, winding roads,  
Brown bogs with black water ;  
And my thoughts on white ships  
And the King o' Spain's daughter.

O ! farmer, strong farmer !  
You can spend at the fair ;  
But your face you must turn  
To your crops and your care.

And soldiers—red soldiers !  
You've seen many lands ;  
But you walk two by two,  
And by captain's commands,

## PADRAIC COLUM

O ! the smell of the beasts,  
The wet wind in the morn ;  
And the proud and hard earth  
Never broken for corn ;

And the crowds at the fair,  
The herds loosened and blind,  
Loud words and dark faces  
And the wild blood behind.

(O ! strong men, with your best  
I would strive breast to breast.  
I could quiet your herds  
With my words, with my words.)

I will bring you, my kine,  
Where there's grass to the knee ;  
But you'll think of scant croppings  
Harsh with salt of the sea.

## PADRAIC COLUM

### AN OLD WOMAN OF THE ROADS

O ! to have a little house !  
To own the hearth and stool and all !  
The heaped up sods upon the fire,  
The pile of turf against the wall !

To have a clock with weights and chains  
And pendulum swinging up and down !  
A dresser filled with shining delph,  
Speckled and white and blue and brown !

I could be busy all the day  
Clearing and sweeping hearth and floor,  
And fixing on their shelf again  
My white and blue and speckled store !

I could be quiet there at night  
Beside the fire and by myself,  
Sure of a bed and loth to leave  
The ticking clock and the shining delph !

Och ! but I'm weary of mist and dark,  
And roads where there's never a house nor bush,  
And tired I am of bog and road,  
And the crying wind and the lonesome hush !

## PADRAIC COLUM

And I am praying to God on high,  
And I am praying Him night and day,  
For a little house—a house of my own—  
Out of the wind's and the rain's way.

## JAMES H. COUSINS

### HIGH AND LOW

HE stumbled home from Clifden fair  
With drunken song, and cheeks aglow.  
Yet there was something in his air  
That told of kingship long ago.  
I sighed—and inly cried  
With grief that one so high should fall so low.

He snatched a flower and sniffed its scent,  
And waved it toward the sunset sky.  
Some old sweet rapture thro' him went  
And kindled in his bloodshot eye.  
I turned—and inly burned  
With joy that one so low should rise so high.

# JAMES H. COUSINS

## THE CORNCRAKE

I HEARD him faintly, far away,  
(*Break ! Break !—Break ! Break !*)  
Calling to the dawn of day,  
“ Break ! Break ! ”

I heard him in the yellow morn  
(*Shake ! Shake !—Shake ! Shake !*)  
Shouting thro’ the rustling corn,  
“ Shake ! Shake ! ”

I heard him near where one lay dead  
(*Ache ! Ache !*)  
Crying among poppies red,  
“ Ache ! Ache !—Ache ! Ache ! ”

And where a solemn yew-tree waves  
(*Wake ! Wake !*)  
All night he shouts among the graves,  
“ Wake ! Wake !—Wake ! Wake ! ”

## H. L. DOAK

### THE BEGGAR

If I had a farm, an' no need to be beggin' my bread,  
I'd work till my fingers were all wore away to the  
bone.

It wouldn't be me you would see lyin' long in my  
bed ;

I'd be out by the squeak o' the day, lookin' after  
my own.

But the pride of industry flies out at the raggedy  
holes

In a coat an' a trousers an' maybe the half of a  
shirt.

You rich, let you wear to a shadow your bodies an'  
souls ;

The beggar is happy to lie on his back in the dirt.

*From H. L. Doak's "The Three-Rock Road," by kind  
permission of The Talbot Press, Ltd., Dublin.*

## DARRELL FIGGIS

### BOGAC BÁN

A WOMAN had I seen as I rode by,  
Stacking her turf and chanting an old song ;  
But now her voice came to me like a cry  
Wailing an old immeasurable wrong,  
Riding the road thro' Bogač bán.

Like a grey ribbon over the dark world,  
Lying along the bog that rose each side,  
The white road strayed upon the earth, and curled,  
Staying its journey where the hills abide,  
Riding the road thro' Bogač bán.

It was not that the Night had laid her cloak  
About the valley, going thro' the sky,  
And yet a dimness like a distant smoke  
Had fallen on the Earth as I rode by.  
Riding the road thro' Bogač bán.

Sweeping the sides of the mountains gaunt and high,  
Floating about their faces in the pool,  
A shadowy presence with a rustling sigh  
Crept thro' the valley till the valley was full :  
My horse's hoofs fell softly as on wool :  
Riding the road thro' Bogač bán.

## DARRELL FIGGIS

In musical measures like an echo dim  
The hosting held its secret path unseen :  
Sliabh Mór looked down to Máṁ, and Máṁ to him  
Looked up, with Loch na n'Ean between :  
Riding the road thro' Bogač bán.

A new world and a new scene mixed its power  
With the old world and the old scene of Earth's face :  
A doorway had been folded back an hour ;  
And silver lights fell with a secret grace  
Where I endeavoured the white path to trace  
Riding the road thro' Bogač bán.

Within my mind a sudden joy had birth,  
For I had found an infinite company there :  
The hosting of the companies of the earth,  
The hosting of the companies of the air,  
Riding the road thro' Bogač bán.  
The white, strange road thro' Bogač bán.

## DARRELL FIGGIS

### INISGALLUN

THE winds are roaring out of the West  
Where the clouds are in stormy saffron drest,  
And the curlew and wild-geese are calling and crying  
Over the straits in Inisgallun,  
The heron and cormorant wailing and sighing,  
Mingling a wild and an endless tune.

The winds are roaring out of the West  
Over the waters of strife and unrest,  
The shrieking rain in the low pools falling,  
The strong waves beating a ceaseless rune,  
And the heron and curlew and wild-geese calling,  
Vainly lamenting in Inisgallun.

The froth and fume of the maddened sea  
Spit thro' the torn air ceaselessly ;  
And the dark low bog in anguish crying,  
And the heather wailing in bitter pain ;  
For the winds from out of the West are flying  
And the Earth will never find peace again.

## EVA GORE-BOOTH

### TO DORA SIGERSON SHORTER “THE SAD YEARS”

You whom I never knew,  
Who lived remote, afar,  
Yet died of the grief that tore my heart,  
Shall we live through the ages alone, apart,  
Or meet where the souls of the sorrowful are  
Telling the tale on some secret star,  
How your death from the root of my sorrow grew—  
You whom I never knew.

Nay, perhaps in the coming years,  
Down here on our earth again,  
We shall meet as strangers on some strange shore,  
And dream we have known one another before,  
In a past life, weeping over the slain—  
Because of a thrill and a throb of pain,  
And eyes grown suddenly salt with tears . . .  
Perhaps . . . in the coming years. . . .

## PADRIC GREGORY

### DOUBT OF REMEMBRANCE

**I**f I, who loathe my remnant of sad days,  
Could make her hear who lies beneath the sod,  
Could call her spirit from the starry-ways,  
Could pluck her from the shielding Arms of God.

Could let her breathe again the April wind,  
Or hear the patt'ring of soft summer rain,  
Should call her back to all she left behind . . .  
Oh, would her coming give my heart more pain ?

Oh, would her eyes scan all the ambered South,  
And sweep, tear-filled, the dark hill-shadowing sea,  
And nothing else ? Oh, would she kiss my mouth ?  
Oh, God ! oh God ! Would she remember me ?

# PADRIC GREGORY

## THE DREAM-TELLER

I WAS a dreamer : I dreamed  
A dream at the dark of dawn,  
When the stars hung over the mountains  
And morn was wan.

I dreamed my dream at morn,  
At noon, at the even-light,  
But I told it to you, dark woman,  
One soft glad night.

And the sharing of my dream  
Has brought me only this :  
The gnawing pain of loss, the ache  
For your mouth to kiss.

I walked the high hills last night,  
And lo, where the pale stars gleam,  
God's cold Voice spake : " If you dream again,  
Tell none your dream ;  
Tell none your dream ! "

# PADRIC GREGORY

## THE WARNIN'S

OCHANNEE, ochannee,  
Ye say he's dead. God rest his sowl !  
But mind ye this : I thought he'd be ;  
For yesterday at dinner-time our oul'  
Black clock, that's sittin' on the kitchen shelf,  
An' hasnae worked for years, struck three ;  
An' the Blessid Mother o' God, herself  
Alone, knows how it frightened me.

Thin last night, whin I wint tae bed,  
A score o' times I crossed m'self ;  
For some strange dog comminced tae howl  
Furmust the dure ;  
An' in the hen-house all the fowl  
Seemed restless ; an' my beads I said  
For William John ; for I felt sure  
That he was dead.  
Ochannee, ochannee,  
God rest his soul !

## ISOBEL HUME (I. H. Fisher)

### HOME-COMING

I AM come home again  
Back to the old grey town,  
Battling with wind and rain  
As I go up and down.

I am come from the South,  
With never a greeting said,  
And no one to kiss my mouth  
Now that my love is dead.

As I go up and down  
In the loud wind and rain,  
Through the familiar town  
He walks with me again.

A woman robbed of her youth—  
The ghost of a lad long dead,  
With never a kiss on my mouth,  
And never a greeting said.

## ISOBEL HUME (I. H. Fisher)

### THE SLEEPER

UNDER white eyelids  
The dreams come and go,  
Kiss her on her rosy mouth,  
And wake her so.

Under white eyelids  
The dreams are all done,  
Fold her hands across her breast—  
Let her sleep on.

## DOUGLAS HYDE

### IF I WERE TO GO WEST

IF I were to go west, it is from the west I  
would not come,

On the hill that was highest, 'tis on it I would stand,  
It is the fragrant branch I would soonest pluck,  
And it is my own love I would quickest follow.

My heart is as black as a sloe,  
Or as a black coal that would be burnt in a forge,  
As the sole of a shoe upon white halls,  
And there is great melancholy over my laugh.

My heart is bruised, broken,  
Like ice upon the top of water,  
As it were a cluster of nuts after their breaking,  
Or a young maiden after her marrying.

My love is of the colour of the blackberries,  
And the colour of the raspberry on a fine sunny  
day.  
Of the colour of the darkest heath-berries of the  
mountain,  
And often has there been a black head upon a bright  
body.

## DOUGLAS HYDE

Time it is for me to leave this town,  
The stone is sharp in it, and the mould is cold ;  
It was in it I got a voice (blame), without riches  
And a heavy word from the band who back-bite.

I denounce love ; woe is she who gave it  
To the son of yon woman, who never understood it.  
My heart in my middle, sure he has left it black,  
And I do not see him on the street or in any place.

## DOUGLAS HYDE

### RINGLETED YOUTH OF MY LOVE

RINGLETED youth of my love,  
With thy locks bound loosely behind thee,  
You passed by the road above,  
But you never came in to find me ;  
Where were the harm for you  
If you came for a little to see me,  
Your kiss is a wakening dew  
Were I ever so ill or so dreamy.

If I had golden store  
I would make a nice little boreen  
To lead straight up to his door,  
The door of the house of my storeen ;  
Hoping to God not to miss  
The sound of his footfall in it,  
I have waited so long for his kiss  
That for days I have slept not a minute.

I thought, O my love ! You were so—  
As the moon is, or sun on a fountain,  
And I thought after that you were snow,  
The cold snow on top of the mountain ;

## DOUGLAS HYDE

And I thought after that, you were more  
Like God's lamp shining to find me,  
Or the bright star of knowledge before,  
And the star of knowledge behind me.

You promised me high-heeled shoes,  
And satin and silk, my storeen,  
And to follow me, never to lose,  
Though the ocean were round us roaring ;  
Like a bush in a gap in a wall  
I am now left lonely without thee,  
And this house I grow dead of, is all  
That I see around or about me.

## DOUGLAS HYDE

### THE COOLEEN, OR COOLUN

A HONEY mist on a day of frost, in a dark oak wood,  
And love for thee in my heart in me, thou bright, white, and good ;  
Thy slender form, soft and warm, thy red lips apart,  
Thou hast found me, and hast bound me, and put grief in my heart.

In fair-green and market, men mark thee, bright, young, and merry,  
Though thou hurt them like foes with the rose of thy blush of the berry ;  
Her cheeks are a poppy, her eye it is Cupid's helper,  
But each foolish man dreams that its beams for himself are.

Whoe'er saw the Cooleen in a cool dewy meadow  
On a morning in summer in sunshine and shadow ;  
All the young men go wild for her, my childeen, my treasure.  
But now let them go mope, they've no hope to possess her.

## DOUGLAS HYDE

Let us roam, O my darling, afar through the mountains,  
Drink milk of the goat, wine and bulcaun in fountains ;  
With music and play every day from my lyre,  
And leave to come rest on my breast when you tire.

# LIONEL JOHNSON

## DEAD

To Olivier Georges Destréé

In Merioneth, over the sad moor  
Drives the rain, the cold wind blows :  
Past the ruinous church door,  
The poor procession without music goes.

Lonely she wandered out her hour, and died.  
Now the mournful curlew cries  
Over her, laid down beside  
Death's lonely people : lightly down she lies.

In Merioneth, the wind lives and wails,  
On from hill to lonely hill ;  
Down the loud, triumphant gales,  
A spirit cries *Be strong !* and cries *Be still !*

# LIONEL JOHNSON

TO  
MORFYDD

A VOICE on the winds,  
A voice by the waters,  
Wanders and cries :  
*Oh ! what are the winds ?*  
*And what are the waters ?*  
*Mine are your eyes !*

Western the winds are,  
And western the waters,  
Where the light lies :  
*Oh ! what are the winds ?*  
*And what are the waters ?*  
*Mine are your eyes !*

Cold, cold, grow the winds,  
And wild grow the waters,  
Where the sun dies :  
*Oh ! what are the winds ?*  
*And what are the waters ?*  
*Mine are your eyes !*

## LIONEL JOHNSON

And down the night winds,  
And down the night waters,

The music flies :

*Oh ! what are the winds ?*

*And what are the waters ?*

*Cold be the winds,*

*And wild be the waters,*

*So mine be your eyes !*

## LIONEL JOHNSON

### “ TO WEEP IRISH ”

To the Rev. Dr. William Barry

LONG Irish melancholy of lament !  
Voice of the sorrow, that is on the sea :  
Voice of that ancient mourning music sent  
From Rama childless : the world wails in thee.

The sadness of all beauty at the heart,  
The appealing of all souls unto the skies,  
The longing locked in each man's breast apart,  
Weep in the melody of thine old cries.

Mother of tears ! sweet Mother of sad sons !  
All mourners of the world weep Irish, weep  
Ever with thee : while burdened time still runs,  
Sorrows reach God through thee, and ask for sleep.

And though thine own unsleeping sorrow yet  
Live to the end of burdened time, in pain :  
Still sing the song of sorrow ! and forget  
The sorrow, in the solace, of the strain.

# FRANCIS LEDWIDGE

## DESIRE IN SPRING

I LOVE the cradle songs the mothers sing  
In lonely places when the twilight drops,  
The slow endearing melodies that bring  
Sleep to the weeping lids ; and, when she stops,  
I love the roadside birds upon the tops  
Of dusty hedges in a world of Spring.

And when the sunny rain drips from the edge  
Of midday wind, and meadows lean one way,  
And a long whisper passes thro' the sedge,  
Beside the broken water let me stay,  
While these old airs upon my memory play,  
And silent changes colour up the hedge.

## FRANCIS LEDWIDGE

### MY MOTHER

GOD made my mother on an April day,  
From sorrow and the mist along the sea,  
Lost birds' and wanderers' songs and ocean spray,  
And the moon loved her wandering jealously.

Beside the ocean's din she combed her hair,  
Singing the nocturne of the passing ships,  
Before her earthly lover found her there  
And kissed away the music from her lips.

She came unto the hills and saw the change  
That brings the swallow and the geese in turns.  
But there was not a grief she deeméd strange,  
For there is that in her which always mourns.

Kind heart she has for all on hill or wave  
Whose hopes grew wings like ants to fly away.  
I bless the God Who such a mother gave  
This poor bird-hearted singer of a day.

## SHANE LESLIE

### FLEET STREET

I NEVER see the newsboys run  
Amid the whirling street,  
With swift untiring feet,  
To cry the latest venture done,  
But I expect one day to hear  
    Them cry the crack of doom  
    And risings from the tomb,  
With great Archangel Michael near ;  
And see them running from the Fleet  
    As messengers of God,  
    With Heaven's tidings shod  
About their brave unwearied feet.

## SHANE LESLIE

### FOREST SONG

ALL around I heard the whispering larches  
Swinging to the low-lipped wind ;  
God, they piped, is lilting in our arches,  
For He loveth leafen kind.

Ferns I heard, unfolding from their slumber,  
Say confiding to the reed :  
God well knoweth us, Who loves to number  
Us and all our fairy seed.

Voices hummed as of a multitude  
Crowding from their lowly sod ;  
'Twas the stricken daisies where I stood,  
Crying to the daisies' God.

## SHANE LESLIE

### HOLY CROSS

It is the bare and leafless Tree  
Our sins once sowed on Calvary,  
And mockers digged with trembling knee—  
Holy Cross.

It is the dead unpitying Wood,  
That like a crimson pillar stood,  
Where none unmoved unweeping could—  
Holy Cross.

O fearful sight foretold to man,  
The cloven spar, the sacred span,  
Whence God's atoning Blood once ran—  
Holy Cross.

It is the Holy Gibbet Tree,  
All stained with Love's last agony  
And marked with awful mystery—  
Holy Cross.

What stains are these incarnadine,  
What scars are these more red than wine  
Of more than human Passion sign ?  
Holy Cross.

## SHANE LESLIE

It is the sunless stricken Tree,  
Upon whose branches sore to see  
O mystery, died One of Three—  
                          Holy Cross.

What storm swept o'er its boughs that day,  
When God to God did sorely pray,  
And human guilt ebbed slow away—  
                          Holy Cross.

When earth shall smoke and sun shall flee,  
Alone unmoved o'er sinking sea  
Shall stand one all-redeeming Tree—  
                          Holy Cross.

## SHANE LESLIE

### MUCKISH MOUNTAIN

LIKE a sleeping swine upon the skyline,  
Muckish, thou art shadowed out,  
Grubbing up the rubble of the ages  
With your broken, granite snout.

Muckish, greatest pig in Ulster's oakwoods,  
Littered out of rock and fire,  
Deep you thrust your mottled flanks for cooling  
Underneath the peaty mire.

Long before the Gael was young in Ireland,  
You were ribbed and old and grey,  
Muckish, you have long outstayed his staying,  
You have seen him swept away.

Muckish, you will not forget the people  
Of the laughing speech and eye,  
They who gave you name of Pig-back-mountain  
And the Heavens for a sty !

## W. M. LETTS

### BOYS

I do be thinking God must laugh  
The time He makes a boy ;  
All element the creatures are,  
And divilmint and joy.

Careless and gay as a wad in a window,<sup>1</sup>  
Swift as a redshanks, and wild as a hare ;  
Heartscalds and torments—but sorra a mother  
Has got one to spare.

<sup>1</sup> “Wad in a window.” The bunch of rags so often seen fluttering from the broken windows of an Irish cabin ; hence the frequent use of this comparison.

IN THE  
STREET

I'VE seen a woman kneeling down  
In the dirty street.  
An' she took no heed of her tattered gown,  
Or the broken boots on her feet ;  
An' she took no heed of the people there,  
Rich and poor that would stand and stare  
At a woman kneeling in prayer  
In the street.

For the thing that she spied  
At the back of the great shop window pane  
Was a cross with a Figure crucified.  
She took no heed of the driving rain,  
An' thim that would turn to look again ;  
She took no heed of the noisy street,  
But knelt down there at her Saviour's feet.  
What matter at all what the place might be ?  
To one poor soul it was Calvary.

## W. M. LETTS

### IRISH SKIES

IN London here the streets are grey, an' grey the  
sky above;

I wish I were in Ireland to see the skies I  
love—

Pearl cloud, buff cloud, the colour of a dove.

All day I travel English streets, but in my dreams  
I tread

The far Glencullen road and see the soft sky over-  
head,

Grey clouds, white clouds, the wind has shepherded.

At night the London lamps shine bright, but what  
are they to me?

I've seen the moonlight in Glendhu, the stars above  
Glenchree—

The lamps of Heav'n give light enough for me.

The city in the winter time puts on a shroud of  
smoke,

But the sky above the Three rock was blue as Mary's  
cloak,

Ruffled like dove's wings when the wind awoke.

## W. M. LETTS

I dream I see the Wicklow hills by evening sunlight  
kissed,  
An' every glen and valley there brimful of radiant  
mist—  
The jewelled sky topaz and amethyst.

I wake to see the London streets, the sombre sky  
above,  
God's blessing on the far-off roads, and on the skies  
I love,—  
Pearl feather, grey feather, wings of a dove.

THE  
HARBOUR

I THINK if I lay dying in some land  
Where Ireland is no more than just a name,  
My soul would travel back to find that strand  
From whence it came.

I'd see the harbour in the evening light,  
The old men staring at some distant ship,  
The fishing-boats they fasten left and right  
Beside the slip.

The sea-wrack lying on the wind-swept shore,  
The grey thorn bushes growing in the sand  
Our Wexford coast from Arklow to Cahore—  
My native land.

The little houses climbing up the hill,  
Sea daisies growing in the sandy grass,  
The tethered goats that wait large-eyed and still  
To watch you pass.

The women at the well with dripping pails,  
Their men colloquing by the harbour wall,  
The coils of rope, the nets, the old brown sails,  
I'd know them all.

## W. M. LETTS

And then the Angelus—I'd surely see  
The swaying bell against a golden sky,  
So God, Who kept the love of home in me,  
Would let me die.

## EDWARD E. LYSAGHT

### THE MARCH FAIR

THREE o'clock, and with a start  
I waken, cursing fair and mart.  
And the bullocks, if they knew,  
Surely would be cursing too ;  
Seven English miles have they,  
Long before the dawn of day,  
More than seven miles to tramp.  
(Where the devil is the lamp ?)  
Bullocks ! In your innocence  
Yours a day of abstinence.  
Two long grey hours 'twill take of you  
Before you land in Killaloe.  
Then when we're there we'll stand forlorn  
Like long wooed sheep that have been shorn,  
    Too early in the summer.  
'Tis eight o'clock and ne'er a bid :  
What fools to come—yet well we did,  
For out from yonder caravan,  
Where Mrs. Browne wields her tin-can  
And serves cold herrings, tea and bread  
To Michael, Paddy, Tom and Ned,  
There comes a man who's slep' it out :  
He's a shipper, there's no doubt.

## EDWARD E. LYSAGHT

I know him, sure, 'tis Johnny Curtin,  
He'll buy our cattle now for certain.  
I ask a hundred for the ten,  
He scans them slightly and then  
He turned away without a word.  
I wink my eye to Mick, the herd.  
"Come here, I want you, Sir," cries he,  
"What is the bullocks' price to be ?"  
—"They're not worth nine." But Jim Molony  
(We all know Jim, the poor old crony)  
Puts in his word without a smile:  
"I don't care which, but wait awhile  
Ask nine fifteen and cut a crown."  
—"Is that the way you'd beat me down ?"  
John strikes my hand and goes away.  
And then comes back again to say  
He'll not break Jim Molony's word.  
(We all say that, we're so absurd)  
And so at last the bargain's struck ;  
It's left to me about the luck.  
"Begob !" says Mick, "for all his tricks  
They're dear enough at nine twelve six."  
So later on when we've been paid,  
We'll drink their health in lemonade.

(The devil sweep those pledges.)

Hherded with others, scores and scores,  
Our bullocks, mixed with cows and stores,  
Are driven through the thronging fair  
Out to the railway station, where

## EDWARD E. LYSAGHT

Numbers of trucks, all just the same,  
Swallow the beasts we knew by name,  
Which lose in leaving Mick and me  
Their individuality.

God ! on what venture ye embark,  
To feed at length some city clerk  
Whose widest world is Blackpool.

## THOMAS MACDONAGH

### TO EOGHAN

WILL you gaze after the dead, gaze into the grave ?—  
Strain your eyes in the darkness, knowing it vain ?  
Strain your voice in the silence that never gave  
To any voice or yours an answer again ?

She whom you loved long years is dead, and you  
Stay, and you cannot bear it and cry for her—  
And life will cure this pain—or death : you too  
Shall quiet lie where cries no echo stir.

*From Thomas MacDonagh's "Poems," by kind  
permission of the Talbot Press, Ltd., Dublin.*

# JOHN FRANCIS MACENTEE

## I MADE MY LOVE A LITTLE SECRET HOUSE

I MADE my love a little secret house,  
Of emerald moss and silver birchen boughs,  
Wherein to while away the sunny hours ;  
And in the roof I set a bubble, bright  
With rainbow colours of the moon, and light,  
Soft, golden radiance of the dew-drenched  
flowers.

I made my thoughts her silent servitors,  
Clad them in soft, sad, silvery gossamers,  
Weft in the twilight by a dryad sighing  
For a forsaken love. I draped the walls  
With blue-grey curtains of the night that falls,  
Star-sprinkled, when the autumn-time is dying.

And all the little songs of love that die  
Unbirthéd in the heart's satiety,  
The little whispers that the noisy world  
Hath deadened into silence : these I brought  
To be her minstrels, that her sleep be fraught  
With quietude, as flower in slumber furled.

## JOHN FRANCIS MACENTEE

And then I led her in. She gazed around,  
As though with all the quietness astound :  
She lifted up her little mouth to speak ;  
Tremoured a little, while her frightened eyes  
Grew bright, then dark, and dark, as daylight dies ;  
And life and colour faded from her cheek.

She looked at me and said : " Ah, let me live,  
I love the sun, the mountain-winds that give  
Spontaneous struggle : all the white and red  
Of life. Dream-shackled, Love, I could not bide."  
Taking her hand I led my love outside  
And let her go. The dream I dreamed was dead.

*From J. F. MacEntee's "Poems," by kind  
permission of the Talbot Press, Ltd., Dublin.*

## PATRICK MACGILL

### DEDICATION

I SPEAK with a proud tongue of the people who were  
And the people who are,  
The worthy of Ardara, the Rosses and Inishkeel,  
My kindred—  
The people of the hills and the dark-haired passes  
My neighbours on the lift of the brae,  
In the lap of the valley.

To them Slainthe !

I speak of the old men,  
The wrinkle-rutted,  
Who dodder about foot-weary—  
For their day is as the day that has been and is  
no more—  
Who warm their feet by the fire,  
And recall memories of the times that are gone ;  
Who kneel in the lamplight and pray  
For the peace that has been theirs—  
And who beat one dry-veined hand against another  
Even in the sun—  
For the coldness of death is on them.

I speak of the old women  
Who danced to yesterday's fiddle  
And dance no longer.

## PATRICK MACGILL

They sit in a quiet place and dream  
And see visions  
Of what is to come,  
Of their issue,  
Which has blossomed to manhood and womanhood—  
And seeing thus  
They are happy  
For the day that was leaves no regrets,  
And peace is theirs,  
And perfection.

I speak of the strong men  
Who shoulder their burdens in the hot day,  
Who stand on the market-place  
And bargain in loud voices,  
Showing their stock to the world.  
Straight the glance of their eyes—  
Broad-shouldered,  
Supple.  
Under their feet the holms blossom,  
The harvest yields.  
And their path is of prosperity.

I speak of the women,  
Strong-hipped, full-bosomed,  
Who drive the cattle to graze at dawn,  
Who milk the cows at dusk.  
Grace in their homes,  
And in the crowded ways  
Modest and seemly—  
Mother of children !

## PATRICK MACGILL

I speak of the children  
Of the many townlands,  
Blossoms of the Bogland,  
Flowers of the Valley,  
Who know not yesterday, nor to-morrow,  
And are happy,  
The pride of those who have begot them.

And thus it is,  
Ever and always,  
In Ardara, the Rosses and Inishkeel—  
Here, as elsewhere,  
The Weak, the Strong, and the Blossoming—  
And thus my kindred.

To them Slainthe.

## SUSAN MITCHELL

### THE LIVING CHALICE

THE Mother sent me on the holy quest  
Timid and proud and curiously dressed  
In vestures by her hand wrought wondrously ;  
An eager burning heart she gave to me.  
The Bridegroom's Feast was set and I drew nigh—  
Master of Life, Thy Cup has passed me by.

Before new-dressed I from the Mother came,  
In dreams I saw the wondrous Cup of Flame ;  
Ah, Divine Chalice, how my heart drank deep,  
Waking I sought the Love I knew asleep.  
The Feast of Life was set and I drew nigh—  
Master of Life, Thy Cup has passed me by.

Eyes of the Soul, awake, awake and see  
Growing within the Ruby Radiant Tree,  
Sharp pain hath wrung the Clusters of my Vine ;  
My heart is rose-red with its brimmèd wine.  
Thou hast new-set the Feast and I draw nigh—  
Master of Life take me, Thy Cup am I.

## “ MOIRA O’NEILL ”

### CORRYMEELA

OVER here in England I’m helpin’ wi’ the hay,  
An’ I wisht I was in Ireland the livelong day ;  
Weary on the English hay, an’ sorra take the wheat !  
*Och ! Corrymeela an’ the blue sky over it.*

There’s a deep dumb river flowin’ by beyont the  
heavy trees,  
This livin’ air is moithered wi’ the hummin’ o’ the  
bees ;  
I wisht I’d hear the Claddagh burn go runnin’  
through the heat  
*Past Corrymeela wi’ the blue sky over it.*

The people that’s in England is richer nor the Jews,  
There’s not the smallest young gossoon but thravels  
in his shoes !  
I’d give the pipe between me teeth to see a barefut  
child,  
*Och ! Corrymeela an’ the low south wind.*

Here’s hands so full o’ money an’ hearts so full o’ care,  
By the luck of love ! I’d still go light for all I  
did go bare.  
“ God save ye, colleen dhas,” I said : the girl she  
thought me wild !  
*Far Corrymeela, an’ the low south wind.*

## “MOIRA O’NEILL”

D’ye mind me now, the song at night is mortal  
hard to raise,  
The girls are heavy goin’ here, the boys are ill to  
plase ;  
When ones’t I’m out this workin’ hive, ’tis I’ll be  
back again—  
*Aye, Corrymeela, in the same soft rain.*

The puff o’ smoke from one ould roof before an  
English Town !  
For a *shaugh* wid Andy Feelan here I’d give a silver  
crown,  
For a curl o’ hair like Mollie’s ye’ll ask the like in  
vain,  
*Sweet Corrymeela, an’ the same soft rain.*

## SEUMAS O'SULLIVAN

### THE ROSSES

My sorrow that I am not by the little dun  
By the lake of the starlings at Rosses under the  
hill,  
And the larks there, singing over the fields of dew,  
Or evening there, and the sedges still.  
For plain I see now the length of the yellow sand,  
And Lissadell far off and its leafy ways,  
And the holy mountain whose mighty heart  
Gather into it all the coloured days.  
My sorrow that I am not by the little dun  
By the lake of the starlings at evening when all  
is still,  
And still in whispering sedges the herons stand,  
'Tis there I would nestle at rest till the quivering  
moon  
Uprose in the golden quiet over the hill.

## SEUMAS O'SULLIVAN

### THE TWILIGHT PEOPLE

It is a whisper among the hazel bushes ;  
It is a long, low, whispering voice that fills  
With a sad music the bending and swaying rushes ;  
It is a heart-beat deep in the quiet hills.

Twilight people, why will you still be crying,  
Crying and calling to me out of the trees ?  
For under the quiet grass the wise are lying,  
And all the strong ones are gone over the seas.

And I am old, and in my heart at your calling  
Only the old dead dreams a-fluttering go ;  
As the wind, the forest wind, in its falling  
Sets the withered leaves fluttering to and fro.

## P. H. PEARSE

### A WOMAN OF THE MOUNTAIN KEENS HER SON

(English Version)

**GRIEF** on the death, it has blackened my heart :  
It has snatched my love and left me desolate,  
Without friend or companion under the roof of my  
house  
But this sorrow in the midst of me, and I keening.

As I walked the mountain in the evening  
The birds spoke to me sorrowfully,  
The sweet snipe spoke and the voiceful curfew  
Relating to me that my darling was dead.

I called to you and your voice I heard not,  
I called again and I got no answer,  
I kissed your mouth, and O God, how cold it  
was !  
Ah, cold is your bed in the lonely churchyard.

O green-sodded grave in which my child is,  
Little narrow grave, since you are his bed,  
My blessing on you, and thousands of blessings  
On the green sods that are over my treasure.

## P. H. PEARSE

Grief on the death, it cannot be denied,  
It lays low, green and withered together,—  
And O gentle little son, what tortures me is  
That your fair body should be making clay !

## P. H. PEARSE

### THE WAYFARER (English Version)

THE beauty of the world hath made me sad,  
This beauty that will pass ;  
Sometimes my heart hath shaken with great joy  
To see a leaping squirrel in a tree,  
Or a red lady-bird upon a stalk,  
Or little rabbits in a field at evening,  
Lit by a slanting sun,  
Or some green hill where shadows drifted by  
Some quiet hill where mountainy man hath sown  
And soon would reap ; near to the gate of Heaven ;  
Or children with bare feet upon the sands  
Of some ebbed sea, or playing on the streets  
Of little towns in Connacht,  
Things young and happy.  
And then my heart hath told me :  
These will pass,  
Will pass and change, will die and be no more,  
Things bright and green, things young and happy ;  
And I have gone upon my way  
Sorrowful.

# JOSEPH M. PLUNKETT

## WHITE DOVE OF THE WILD DARK EYES

WHITE Dove of the wild dark eyes  
Faint silver flutes are calling  
From the night where the star-mists rise  
And fire-flies falling  
Tremble in starry wise,  
Is it you they are calling ?

White Dove of the beating heart  
Shrill golden reeds are thrilling  
In the woods where the shadows start,  
While moonbeams, filling  
With dreams the floweret's heart  
Its dreams are thrilling.

White Dove of the folded wings,  
Soft purple night is crying  
With the voice of fairy things  
For you, lest dying  
They miss your flashing wings,  
Your splendorous flying.

*From J. M. Plunkett's "Poems," by kind permission of the Talbot Press, Ltd., Dublin.*

## T. W. ROLLESTON

### SONG OF MAELDUIN

**THERE** are veils that lift, there are bars that fall,  
There are lights that beckon, and winds that call—  
    Good-bye !

There are hurrying feet, and we dare not wait,  
For the hour is on us—the hour of Fate,  
The circling hour of the flaming gate—  
    Good-bye—good-bye—good-bye !

Fair, fair they shine through the burning zone—  
The rainbow gleams of a world unknown ;  
    Good-bye !

And oh ! to follow, to seek, to dare,  
When, step by step, in the evening air  
Floats down to meet us the cloudy stair !  
    Good-bye—good-bye—good-bye !

The cloudy stair of the Brig o' Dread  
Is the dizzy path that our feet must tread—  
    Good-bye !

O children of Time—O Nights and Days,  
That gather and wonder and stand at gaze,  
And wheeling stars in your lonely ways,  
    Good-bye—good-bye—good-bye !

## T. W. ROLLESTON

The music calls and the gates unclose,  
Onward and onward the wild way goes—  
Good-bye !

We die in the bliss of a great new birth,  
O fading phantoms of pain and mirth,  
O fading loves of the old green earth—  
Good-bye—good-bye—good-bye !

## T. W. ROLLESTON

### THE DEAD AT CLONMACNOIS

From the Irish of Enoch O' Gillan

IN a quiet water'd land, a land of roses,  
Stands Saint Kieran's city fair :  
And the warriors of Erin in their famous generations  
Slumber there.

There beneath the dewy hillside sleep the noblest  
Of the clan of Conn,  
Each below his stone with name in branching Ogham  
And the sacred knot thereon.

There they laid to rest the seven Kings of Tara,  
There the sons of Cairbré sleep—  
Battle-banners of the Gael, that in Kieran's plain  
of crosses  
Now their final hosting keep.

And in Clonmacnois they laid the men of Teffia,  
And right many a lord of Breagh ;  
Deep the sod above Clan Creidé and Clan Conaill,  
Kind in hall and fierce in fray.

Many and many a son of Conn, the Hundred-Fighter,  
In the red earth lies at rest ;  
Many a blue eye of Clan Colman the turf covers,  
Many a swan-white breast.

## R. ROWLEY

### THINKIN' LONG

It's time the lamp was lit,  
A sit my lone,  
Watchin' the firelight play  
On the cracked hearth-stone.  
Oul' dreams go through my head,  
Like words o' a song.  
A'm sittin' here my lone,  
An' A'm thinkin' long.

A poor oul' doitered man  
That yammers an' girns,  
A was quarely differ'nt oncer  
Wi' wife an' bairns.  
The house was full o' weans  
All straight an' strong,  
It's desp'rit empty now,  
An A'm thinkin' long.

It's time the lamp was lit—  
Och, let it stan' !  
What need is there o' light  
For an oul' done man ?  
The house is empty now,  
An' the Kirkyard throng ;  
A'm sittin' here my lone,  
An A'm thinkin' long.

## R. ROWLEY

### WITCHCRAFT

Big Alec o' the Hill  
Is a strong farmer, an' rich ;  
Oul' Biddy in the loanin'  
Is poor, an' a witch.

Big Alec is failin'  
He dwinnles an' wastes ;  
The blight's in his pitaties,  
The murrain's on his bastes.

Big Alec sits an' wonders,  
An' thinks, but doesn't know  
The ill-turn he done Biddy  
Twenty years ago.

The good Lord protect us  
From secret harms !  
A wouldn't stan' in big Alec's shoes  
For all his farms.

## DORA SIGERSON

### CAN DOOV DEELISH

CAN Doov DEELISH, beside the sea  
I stand and stretch my hands to thee  
Across the world.

The riderless horses race to shore  
With thundering hoofs and shuddering, hoar,  
Blown manes uncurled.

Can doov deelish, I cry to thee  
Beyond the world, beneath the sea,  
Thou being dead.

Where hast thou hidden from the beat  
Of crushing hoofs and tearing feet  
Thy dear black head ?

God bless the woman, whoever she be,  
From the tossing waves will recover thee  
And lashing wind.

Who will take thee out of the wind and storm,  
Dry thy wet face on her bosom warm  
And lips so kind ?

I not to know. It is hard to pray,  
But I shall for this woman from day to day,  
"Comfort my dead,  
The sport of the winds and the play of the sea."  
I loved thee too well for this thing to be,  
O dear black head !

## DORA SIGERSON

### THE COMFORTERS

WHEN I crept over the hill, broken with tears,  
When I crouched down on the grass, dumb in despair,  
I heard the soft croon of the wind bend to my ears,  
I felt the light kiss of the wind touching my hair.

When I stood lone on the height my sorrow did speak,  
As I went down the hill, I cried and I cried,  
The soft little hands of the rain stroking my cheek,  
The kind little feet of the rain ran by my side.

When I went to thy grave, broken with tears,  
When I crouched down in the grass, dumb in despair,  
I heard the sweet croon of the wind soft in my ears,  
I felt the kind lips of the wind touching my hair.

When I stood lone by thy cross, sorrow did speak,  
When I went down the long hill, I cried and I cried,  
The soft little hands of the rain stroked my pale  
cheek,  
The kind little feet of the rain ran by my side.

# JAMES STEPHENS

## BLUE STARS AND GOLD

WHILE walking through the trams and cars  
I chanced to look up at the sky,  
And saw that it was full of stars.

So starry-sown that you could not,  
With any care, have stuck a pin  
Through any single vacant spot.

And some were shining furiously,  
And some were big and some were small,  
But all were beautiful to see.

Blue stars and gold, a sky of grey,  
The air between a velvet pall ;  
I could not take my eyes away.

And there I sang this little psalm  
Most awkwardly, because I was  
Standing between a car and tram.

## JAMES STEPHENS

### IN THE POPPY FIELD

MAD PATSY said, he said to me,  
That every morning he could see  
An angel walking on the sky ;  
Across the sunny skies of morn  
He threw great handfuls far and nigh  
Of poppy seed among the corn ;  
And then, he said, the angels run  
To see the poppies in the sun.

A poppy is a devil weed,  
I said to him—he disagreed :  
He said the devil had no hand  
In spreading flowers tall and fair  
Through corn and rye and meadow land,  
By garth and barrow everywhere :  
The devil has not any flower,  
But only money in his power.

And then he stretched out in the sun  
And rolled upon his back for fun :  
He kicked his legs and roared for joy  
Because the sun was shining down,  
He said he was a little boy  
And would not work for any clown :  
He ran and laughed behind a bee,  
And danced for very ecstasy.

# JAMES STEPHENS

## O'CONNELL BRIDGE

IN Dublin town the people see  
Gorgeous clouds sail gorgeously,  
They are finer, I declare,  
Than the clouds of anywhere.

A swirl of blue and red and green,  
A stream of blinding gold, a sheen  
From silver hill and pearly ridge  
Comes each evening on the bridge.

So when you walk in a field, look down,  
Lest you tramp on a daisy's crown,  
But in a city look always high  
And watch the beautiful clouds go by.

## JAMES STEPHENS

### STEPHEN'S GREEN

THE wind stood up and gave a shout ;  
He whistled on his fingers, and  
Kicked the withered leaves about  
And thumped the branches with his hand,  
And said he'd kill, and kill, and kill,  
And so he will, and so he will.

## JAMES STEPHENS

### THE RED-HAIRED MAN'S WIFE

I HAVE taken that vow—  
And you were my friend  
But yesterday—now  
All that's at an end,  
And you are my husband, and claim me, and I  
must depend.

Yesterday I was free,  
Now you, as I stand,  
Walk over to me  
And take hold of my hand.  
You look at my lips, your eyes are too bold, your  
smile is too bland.

My old name is lost,  
My distinction of race :  
Now the line has been crossed,  
Must I step to your pace ?  
Must I walk as you list, and obey, and smile up  
in your face ?

All the white and the red  
Of my cheeks you have won ;  
All the hair of my head,  
And my feet, tho' they run,  
Are yours, and you own me and end me just as  
I begun.

## JAMES STEPHENS

Must I bow when you speak,  
Be silent and hear,  
Inclining my cheek  
And incredulous ear  
To your voice, and command, and behest, hold  
your lightest wish dear ?

I am woman, but still  
Am alive, and can feel  
Every intimate thrill  
That is woe or is weal.  
I, aloof, and divided, apart, standing far, can I kneel ?

O if kneeling were right,  
I should kneel nor be sad,  
And abase in your sight  
All the pride that I had,  
I should come to you, hold to you, cling to you,  
call to you, glad.

If not, I shall know,  
I shall surely find out,  
And your world will throw  
In disaster and rout ;  
I am woman and glory and beauty, I mystery,  
terror, and doubt.

I am separate still,  
I am I and not you :  
And my mind and my will,  
As in secret they grew,  
Still are secret, unreached and untouched and not  
subject to you.

# JAMES STEPHENS

## THE SNARE

To A. E.

I HEAR a sudden cry of pain !  
There is a rabbit in a snare :  
Now I hear the cry again,  
But I cannot tell from where.

But I cannot tell from where  
He is calling out for aid ;  
Crying on the frightened air,  
Making everything afraid.

Making everything afraid,  
Wrinkling up his little face,  
As he cries again for aid ;  
And I cannot find the place !

And I cannot find the place  
Where his paw is in the snare :  
Little one ! Oh, little one !  
I am searching everywhere.

## HERBERT TRENCH

### A SONG TO AROLILIA DWELLER BY THE FOUNTAIN

WHEN you were born, the Earth obeyed ;  
*(Call her, Echo !)*

Fragrances from the distance blew,  
Beanfields and violets were made,  
And jasmine by the cypress grew—  
Jasmine by the cloudy yew—

*(Call her, Echo !*  
*Call Arolilia by her name !)*

When you were born, despairs must die,  
*(Call her, Echo !)*

Sweet tongues were loosened from a spell—  
Snow mountains glistened from on high  
And torrents to the valleys fell—  
A song into Man's bosom fell—  
*(Call her, Echo !*  
*Call Arolilia by her name !)*

When you were born, hid lightning's shape  
*(Call her, Echo !)*

Took up the poor man's altar coal,  
His green vine throbbed into the grape,  
And in the dastard sprang a soul—  
Even in the dastard sprang a soul—  
*(Call her, Echo !*  
*Call Arolilia by her name !)*

## HERBERT TRENCH

When you were born, all golden shot  
(*Call her, Echo!*)

Fountains of daybreak from the sea,  
And still, if near I find you not—  
If steps I hear, but you come not—  
Darkness lies on the world for me!

(*Call her, Echo!*

*Call Arolilia by her name!*

## HERBERT TRENCH

### EPITAPH ON AN INFANT

HOUSE upon the Earth, be sad,  
Lacking me thou mightst have had ! . . .  
Many æons did I wait  
For admission to the Gate  
Of the Living. But to see  
Much was not vouchsafed to me,  
Dazzled, in my little span.  
I, that hoped to be a man,  
Like a snowflake incarnated  
Seem for three days light created.

I saw two Eyes, and break of Day  
Gold on spires of Nineveh.  
But, ere I one comrade made,  
Or with a fellow Beastling played—  
Even while voices I forget  
Called from cloud and minaret  
Men to wake—I stood once more  
With the Dreams, outside the door.

## HERBERT TRENCH

### SONG OF THE VINE IN ENGLAND

#### MAN.

O VINE along my garden wall  
Could I thine English slumber break,  
And thee from wintry exile disenthral,  
Where would thy spirit wake ?

#### VINE.

I would wake at the hour of dawning in May in Italy,  
When rose mists rise from the Magra's valley plains  
In the fields of maize and olives around Pontrémoli  
When peaks grow golden and clear and the starlight  
wanes :

I would wake to the dance of the sacred mountains,  
boundlessly  
Kindling their marble snows in the rite of fire,  
To them my newborn tendrils softly and soundlessly  
Would uncurl and aspire.

I would hang no more on thy wall a rusted slumberer,  
Listless and fruitless, strewing the pathways cold,  
I would seem no more in thine eyes an idle cumberer  
Profitless alien, bitter and sere and old.

## HERBERT TRENCH

In some warm terraced dell where the Roman rioted  
And still in tiers his stony theatre heaves,  
Would I festoon with leaf-light his glory quieted  
And flake his thrones with leaves.

Doves from the mountain belfries would seek and  
cling to me  
To drink from the altar, winnowing the fragrant  
airs ;  
Women from olived hillsides by turns would sing  
to me  
Beating the olives, or stooping afield in pairs ;  
On gala evenings the gay little carts of labourers  
Swinging from axles their horns against evil eye  
And crowded with children, revellers, pipers and  
taborers  
Chanting would pass me by. . . .

There go the pale blue shadows so light and  
showery  
Over sharp Apuan peaks—rathe mists unwreathe—  
Almond trees wake, and the paven yards grow  
flowery—  
Crocuses cry from the earth at the joy to  
breathe ;  
There through the deep-eaved gateways of haughty-  
turreted  
Arno—house-laden bridges of strutted stalls—  
Mighty white oxen drag in the jars rich-spirited  
Grazing the narrow walls !

## HERBERT TRENCH

Wine-jars I too have filled, and the heart was thrilled  
with me !

Brown-limbed on shady turf the families lay,  
Shouting they bowled the bowls, and old men filled  
with me

Roused the September twilight with songs that day.  
Lanterns of sun and moon the young children  
flaunted me,

Plaiters of straw from doorway to window cried—  
Borne through the city gates the great oxen vaunted  
me,

Swaying from side to side.

Wine-jars out of my leafage that once so vitally  
Throbbed into purple, of me thou shalt never take :  
Thy heart would remember the towns on the branch  
of Italy,

And teaching to throb I should teach it, perchance,  
to break.

It would beat for those little cities, rock-hewn and  
mellowing

Festooned from summit to summit, where still  
sublime

Murmur her temples, lovelier in their yellowing  
Than in the morn of time.

I from the scorn of frost and the wind's iniquity  
Barren, aloft in that golden air would thrive :  
My passionate rootlets draw from that hearth's  
antiquity

Whirls of profounder fire in us to survive—

## HERBERT TRENCH

Serried realms of our fathers would swell and foam  
with us—

Juice of the Latin sunrise ; your own sea-flung  
Rude and far-wandered race might again find home  
with us,

Leaguing with old Rome, young.

## HERBERT TRENCH

### WHO ART THOU, STARRY GHOST

WHO art thou, starry ghost,  
That ridest on the air  
At head of all the host,  
And art so burning-eyed  
For all thy strengthlessness ?  
World, I am no less  
Than She whom thou hast awaited ;  
She who remade a Poland out of nothingness,  
And hath created  
Ireland, out of a breath of pride  
In the reed-bed of despair.

## KATHERINE TYNAN

### FAREWELL

Not soon shall I forget—a sheet  
Of golden water, cold and sweet,  
The young moon with her head in veils  
Of silver, and the nightingales.

A wain of hay came up the lane—  
O fields I shall not walk again,  
And trees I shall not see, so still  
Against a sky of daffodil !

Fields where my happy heart had rest,  
And where my heart was heaviest,  
I shall remember them at peace  
Drenched in moon-silver like a fleece.

The golden water sweet and cold,  
The moon of silver and of gold,  
The dew upon the gray grass-spears,  
I shall remember them with tears.

# KATHERINE TYNAN

## THE OLD LOVE

OUT of my door I step into  
The country, all her scent and dew,  
Nor travel there by a hard road,  
Dusty and far from my abode.

The country washes to my door  
Green miles on miles in soft uproar,  
The thunder of the woods, and then  
The backwash of green surf again.

Beyond the feverfew and stocks,  
The guelder-rose and hollyhocks ;  
Outside my trellised porch a tree  
Of lilac frames a sky for me.

A stretch of primrose and pale green  
To hold the tender Hesper in ;  
Hesper that by the moon makes pale  
Her silver keel and silver sail.

The country silence wraps me quite,  
Silence and song and pure delight ;  
The country beckons all the day  
Smiling, and but a step away.

## KATHERINE TYNAN

This is that country seen across  
How many a league of love and loss,  
Prayed for and longed for, and as far  
As fountains in the desert are.

This is that country at my door,  
Whose fragrant airs run on before,  
And call me when the first birds stir  
In the green wood to walk with her.

## KATHERINE TYNAN

### THE PRAYER

SHE drew the grey shawl round her head ;  
“ Sure it is bitter cold,” she said ;  
“ An’ is there news of *him*, asthore ? ”  
*God help the mothers of the world !*

“ I do be prayin’ to mesel’  
The Lord may keep him safe and well  
An’ bring him back to his mother’s door.”  
*God help the mothers of the world !*

“ The lambs are perished wid the storm.  
God keep his darlin’ head from harm !  
It’s well for her has ne’er a one ! ”  
*God help the mothers of the world !*

And as I went my way I heard  
Her call like a lamenting bird :  
“ I used to fret that had no son.”  
*God help the mothers of the world !*

**DOWN BY THE  
SALLEY GARDENS**

Down by the salley gardens my love and I did meet ;  
She passed the salley gardens with little snow-white feet.  
She bid me take love easy, as the leaves grow on the tree ;  
But I, being young and foolish, with her would not agree.

In a field by the river my love and I did stand,  
And on my leaning shoulder she laid her snow-white hand.  
She bid me take life easy, as the grass grows on the weirs ;  
But I was young and foolish, and now am full of tears.

RUNNING  
TO PARADISE

As I came over Windy Gap  
They threw a halfpenny into my cap,  
For I am running to Paradise ;  
And all that I need do is to wish  
And somebody puts his hand in the dish  
To throw me a bit of salted fish :  
And there the king *is* but as the beggar.

My brother Mourteen is worn out  
With skelping his big brawling lout,  
And I am running to Paradise ;  
A poor life do what he can,  
And though he keep a dog and a gun,  
A serving maid and a serving man :  
And there the king *is* but as the beggar.

Poor men have grown to be rich men,  
And rich men grown to be poor again,  
And I am running to Paradise ;  
And many a darling wit's grown dull  
That tossed a bare heel when at school,  
Now it has filled an old sock full :  
And there the king *is* but as the beggar.

## W. B. YEATS

The wind is old and still at play  
While I must hurry upon my way,  
For I am running to Paradise ;  
Yet never have I lit on a friend  
To take my fancy like the wind  
That nobody can buy or bind :  
And there the king *is* but as the beggar.

THE LAKE ISLE  
OF INNISFREE

I WILL arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles  
made :

Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the  
honey bee,  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes  
dropping slow,  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where  
the cricket sings ;  
There midnight's all aglimmer, and noon a purple  
glow,  
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day  
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the  
shore ;  
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements  
gray,  
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

## W. B. YEATS

### THE SORROW OF LOVE

THE quarrel of the sparrows in the eaves,  
The full round moon and the star-laden sky,  
And the loud song of the ever-singing leaves,  
Had hid away earth's old and weary cry.

And then you came with those red mournful lips,  
And with you came the whole of the world's tears  
And all the trouble of her labouring ships,  
And all the trouble of her myriad years.

And now the sparrows warring in the eaves,  
The curd-pale moon, the white stars in the sky,  
And the loud chaunting of the unquiet leaves,  
Are shaken with earth's old and weary cry.

## W. B. YEATS

### THE WILD SWANS AT COOLE

THE trees are in their autumn beauty,  
The woodland paths are dry,  
Under the October twilight the water  
    Mirrors a still sky ;  
Upon the brimming water among the stones  
    Are nine and fifty swans.

The nineteenth Autumn has come upon me  
    Since I first made my count ;  
I saw, before I had well finished,  
    All suddenly mount  
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings  
    Upon their clamorous wings.

I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,  
    And now my heart is sore.  
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,  
    The first time on this shore,  
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,  
    Trod with a lighter tread.

## W. B. YEATS

Unwearied still, lover by lover,  
They paddle in the cold,  
Companionable streams or climb the air ;  
Their hearts have not grown old ;  
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,  
Attend upon them still.

But now they drift on the still water  
Mysterious, beautiful ;  
Among what rushes will they build,  
By what lake's edge or pool  
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day  
To find they have flown away ?

## W. B. YEATS

### TO THE ROSE UPON THE ROOD OF TIME

RED Rose, proud Rose, sad Rose of all my  
days !

Come near me, while I sing the ancient ways :  
Cuchulain battling with the bitter tide ;  
The Druid, gray, wood-nurtured, quiet-eyed,  
Who cast round Fergus dreams, and ruin untold ;  
And thine own sadness, whereof stars, grown old  
In dancing silver sandalled on the sea,  
Sing in their high and lonely melody.  
Come near, that no more blinded by man's fate,  
I find under the boughs of love and hate,  
In all poor foolish things that live a day,  
Eternal beauty wandering on her way.

Come near, come near, come near—Ah, leave me  
still

A little space for the rose-breath to fill !  
Lest I no more hear common things that crave ;  
The weak worm hiding down in its small cave,  
The field mouse running by me in the grass,  
And heavy mortal hopes that toil and pass ;  
But seek alone to hear the strange things said  
By God to the bright hearts of those long dead,

## W. B. YEATS

And learn to chaunt a tongue men do not know.  
Come near ; I would, before my time to go,  
Sing of old Eire and the ancient ways :  
Red Rose, proud Rose, sad Rose of all my days.

## W. B. YEATS

### WHEN YOU ARE OLD

WHEN you are old and gray and full of sleep,  
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,  
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look  
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep.

How many loved your moments of glad grace,  
And loved your beauty with love false or true ;  
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,  
And loved the sorrows of your changing face.

And bending down beside the glowing bars  
Murmur, a little sadly, how love fled  
And paced upon the mountains overhead  
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

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